minerals and grant mineral concessions as per the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Rules framed there under. The said Act and Rules are available on the website of the Ministry of Mines (*www.mines.nic.in*)

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, as per the provision of the said Act, the State Government may give preference to an applicant in grant of mineral concession on the basis of his special knowledge or experience in mining operations, his financial resources, investment proposed in mining operations, technical capability and end use of minerals.

Allotment of mining blocks to industries

1593. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any established procedure for allotment of mining blocks of different kinds to industries;

(b) if so, whether there is any established policy for a priority based allotment to PSUs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (c) State Governments are the owners of the minerals and grant mineral concessions as per the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Rules framed there under. As per the provisions of the said Act, the State Government may grant mineral concession to an Indian national or a company as defined in sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956, which includes private as well as Public Sector Companies. The State Government may give preference to an applicant in grant of mineral concession on the basis of his special knowledge or experience in mining operations, his financial resources, investment proposed in mining operations, technical capability and end use of minerals. Apart from this, mineral bearing areas can be reserved in favour of Central/State Public Sector companies for undertaking prospecting or mining operations.

Mineral deposits at Dausa

†1594. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a potential deposit of 43,700 tonne of copper and large quantity of gold in the rocks at Dausa in Rajasthan;

(b) whether any official survey has been conducted by the experts in this regard;

(c) if so, the estimates thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the details of various metals and their quantities likely to be available therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) As per National Mineral Inventory prepared by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), the total resources of copper ore are estimated at 32,00,000 tonnes with metal content of 34,880 tonnes and the total resources of gold ore are estimated at 32,00,000 tonnes with metal content of 4.93 tonnes in Dausa district of Rajasthan as on 1.4.2005.

(b) to (d) Geological Survey of India (GSI) carried out systematic geochemical sampling in Dhani-Basri Copper-Gold prospect in Dausa district of Rajasthan from October, 1999 to September, 2000, followed by test drilling in November, 2000. A resource of 3.2 million tonnes of Gold-Copper ore of possible category at 1.56 ppm Au (gold) and 1.09% Cu (copper) of which 0.89 million tonnes is of probable category with 1.04% Cu and 1.54 ppm Au has been estimated in Dhani-Basri area.

Mineral deposits in forests/sanctuaries

1595. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that various precious metals like gold, copper, zinc and platinum are located in dense forests/wild-life sanctuaries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has directed that no mining activity would be allowed in such areas; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, so that these precious and rare minerals could be exploited for the growth of the country's economy?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) As per the National Mineral Inventory prepared by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), the details of resources of copper, lead and zinc, gold and platinum group of metals located in forest areas as on 1.4.2005 are given below:

(Unit: million tonnes)

Mineral	Ore	Metal	Location
Copper	13.79	0.21	Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Uttarakhand
Gold	67.76	0.000136	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu
Lead and zinc	24	1.66	Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.
Platinum group of Metals	–	0.000014	Orissa